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TITLE: NEW CAROTENOID AND ITS PRODUCTION

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ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To obtain a new highly polar carotenoid such as astaxanthin glucoside or adonixanthin glucoside useful as a color tone improver for cultured fish and shellfishes and as food additive, etc., by culturing specific microbes belonging to Agrobacterium.

CONSTITUTION: This new highly polar carotenoid consists of astaxanthin glucoside of formula I or adonixanthin glucoside of formula II, having antioxidant action and thus being useful as a color tone improver for cultured fish and shellfishes, as food additive, etc. The new carotenoid belongs to the product of Agrobacterium and can be obtained by the following process: microbes having ability to produce the carotenoid of formula I or II [e.g. Agrobacterium aurantiacus (FERM P-14023)] is inoculated into a medium and subjected to shaking culture at 25°C for 96h to produce and accumulate it followed by centrifuging the culture fluid to collect the resultant microbes, which are then subjected to extraction with acetone followed by ethyl acetate, and the resultant extract is purified with a silica gel column.

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